

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Volume 19

Number 3 *The Iowa Homemaker* vol.19, no.3

Article 10

1939

Spread-ucation

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Recommended Citation

Garberson, Pat (1939) "Spread-ucation," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 19 : No. 3 , Article 10.

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Spread-ucation

Pat Garberson brings tales of midnight feasts in Old Main

SPREADS have been flourishing on the campus since the first brave women came to college. They did not have to be invented—they were a result. Women in home economics courses spend all day mastering the arts of homemaking according to science. Occasionally they feel an urge to relax from recipes, take their imaginations into the kitchen and practice cookery with reference only to the dictates of their palates.

There is a little history in this matter of midnight lunches. It is as old as the days when the first floor of old Main Hall was given over to the women. There were no stores on the campus then, and the only way to get the forbidden fruit into the dorm was to smuggle it.

It's been told by an old alum, who hopes she isn't letting the cat out of the bag, that the men, who lived on second and third floors, lowered the food that only they had permission to go out to buy, into the women's windows. They even managed a pulley to hoist oil stoves for extra-special occasions. Spreads in those days must have been well seasoned with excitement.

A far cry from all this is the spread of today. Only a few years ago they reached a new high. A dormitory woman, who had a can of cold chili on her hands, plugged in her curling iron and carefully stirred the chili into a steam.

All sorts of ingenious ideas are born in regard to eating. Brainstorms, however, do not always net the best results. A midnight snack must be healthful as well as appetizing. Students have to sleep on Saturday nights as well as on others. A little "spreaducation" is needed on the campus.

To you whose mother sends a huge box of fried chicken, brownies, and a larder of supplies every other week-end, nothing need be said (except to hope that we'll be invited). Those who have families too busy or too far away must know how to make quick sandwiches, uncooked desserts, and "yummy" beverages.

That old favorite menu, crackers, cheese, olives and a fruit that substitutes for a drink, can't be beaten for speed in preparation. There will be no left-overs if you serve raisin bread, spread with peanut butter, and toast it.

If someone in the dorm has a waffle iron, there's no end to the variety of waffles you can make—chocolate brownie, spice or bacon waffles. Cheeseburgers, sour pickles and hot cocoa hit the spot on a cold night. So does hot spiced grapejuice or cider and doughnuts. Plan something unusual!

Eating at midnight is often the only time when the whole gang gets together; it is the time when women see each other with hair up and pretenses discarded. These occasions in college life are not to be neglected. Long live King Spread!

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